



# Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer  
Director

## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1565

**DATE:** October 30, 2015

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Hospitals, Physicians, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners and Certified Nurse Midwives

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Elective C-Section Coverage and Payment – ICD-10 Update

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

As noted in [Informational Letter No. 1249](#)<sup>1</sup>, the Iowa Legislature mandated that the Iowa Medicaid Program no longer provide coverage of or payment for elective, non-medically necessary Cesarean section (C-section) deliveries. This change was effective July 1, 2013, and aligns with initiatives being undertaken by the Iowa HealthCare Collaborative, as well as by various individual hospitals and hospital systems.

Providers need to use the appropriate ICD-10 code for the C-section being billed. The ICD-9 diagnosis codes and further C-section coverage details are found in [Informational Letter No. 1260](#)<sup>2</sup>.

Effective for dates of service and dates of discharge on and after October 1, 2015, claims billed to the IME must be ICD-10 compliant. The IME lists of ICD-10 diagnosis codes were developed to reflect the medical necessity and appropriateness for a C-section. The diagnosis code lists are split into three groups. [Group 1](#)<sup>3</sup> represents diagnosis codes which in any position on the claim will allow the C-section claim to be processed without upfront review of documentation. [Group 2](#)<sup>4</sup> represents diagnosis codes that must include documentation with the claim to determine medical necessity in order to be considered for payment. [Group 3](#)<sup>5</sup> represents diagnosis codes that are not payable.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, or locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4609 or by email at: [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us).

<sup>1</sup> <http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1249%20Elective%20C-Section%20Coverage%20and%20Payment.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1260%20Elective%20C-Section%20Coverage%20and%20Payment%20FOLLOW-UP.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/Group%201%20Elective%20C-sections.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/Group%202%20Elective%20C-sections.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/Group%203%20Elective%20C-sections.pdf>